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September 30, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/051,670 ✓  
Filed: September 8, 1998  
Title: Novel DNA and Process for Preparing Protein Using the DNA  
Applicants: NAKAGAWA *et al.*  
Atty. Docket: 16991.009

Sir:

**Applicants' Inquiry Concerning Suspension of Action by  
the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.103 and MPEP 709**

Pursuant to an official communication mailed March 26, 2002 regarding suspension of prosecution of the above-referenced application, Applicants respectfully request that a status update of this application be provided to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

*Danielle Edwards*

Andrew S. Brenc (Reg. Attorney No. 45,534)  
Danielle M. Edwards (Reg. Agent No. 51,645)